

OPENING STATEMENT OF
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“SECTION 203(K) HOUSING PROGRAM”
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The 203(k) program is HUD’s primary program for the rehabilitation and repair of single family properties and is an essential program for thousands of people throughout our country. The 203(k) program is a crucial tool for community and neighborhood revitalization and for expanding homeownership opportunities.

Section 203(k) program is an excellent means for lenders to demonstrate their commitment to lending in lower income communities and to help meet their responsibilities under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

Unfortunately, the program has attracted some unscrupulous contractors and mortgage companies that have left home buyers living under dangerous conditions. We now need to ensure that people like Brett and Marla Renwick-- who see this program as their only possibility to own a home in cities like New York and Chicago where property values are very high--are protected from being affected by dishonest transactions.

We must also remember that thousands of families are in homes that they could not have purchased without the help of this important program and we must think about the positive role that this program will continue to have in the future of thousands of families. The program’s original goal must continue to be reflected in communities around the country.

I look forward to working with government officials, community leaders and members of Congress to help achieve this goal.